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sound of rushing waters, the cry of frightened birds, and the thunders of crashing trees"; or when he speaks of "the stealthy step of the hunter, yet back of that for a century was the scarcely audible splash of the paddle and the answering swirl of the water."

Added to the conscious adornment of his style is its unconscious saturation in the two great sources of ancient culture, Hebrew and Greek. One hardly knows which comes the more readily to his thought, the classical allusion or the scriptural reference. The *Griffin* is to him the modern *Argo*, La Salle a Jason, his crew the argonauts. When he thinks of the French pioneers oppressed by the paternalism of Louis XIV going out in search of new homes, Virgil's *Aeneid* comes to his mind: "like Aeneas, therefore, these filial emigrants, seeking new homes, not only carried their *lares et penates* in their arms but bore upon their shoulders their father Anchises."

His scriptural allusions may prove too frequent and too recondite for the young person of the modern generation, who may miss the point of the comparison of the early land offices to the "Ark of the Covenant in the History of Israel."

Nevertheless despite his allusions, Finley is a modern of the moderns, and the book is forward looking, as well as a chronicle of the past. Indeed it sometimes assumes a rôle akin to prophecy when depicting the future of the valley and its usefulness to the "men of always."

A final chapter gives acknowledgment to Francis Parkman, the ultimate master of all who write the history of the French in America. Among other acknowledgments are those to a living master of the history of the West, his fellow-student at Johns Hopkins, like himself a son of the valley, Frederick Jackson Turner. There is something truly kindred in their thought, if not their method — a like suggestiveness in linking things old and new, a similar appreciation of the significance of the ordinary, or to quote Finley's phrase "the reconciliation of the edges of things."

France and America — the juxtaposition has been often described and the relationship set forth, but seldom more delightfully than in the pages of this truly fascinating book, which is a pean for the Mississippi valley, by a prophet of its own making.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

Reminiscences of Chicago during the civil war. With an introduction by Mabel McIlvaine. (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley and Sons Company, 1914. 194 p. gratis)

A commendable custom was instituted by the Lakeside Press of Chicago when it began the issue, a few years since, of an annual volume devoted to local history and produced by the school for apprentices of the

Lakeside Press. The element of commercial gain is absent, the attractive little volumes which constitute the series thus far being distributed gratuitously as a Christmas greeting to friends and patrons of the publishers.

The volume before us contains ten subjects, or chapters. All but one of these have been previously printed in book, pamphlet, or newspaper form, so that the book is in reality a compilation of material drawn from various sources. Two chapters have been taken from Frederick Cook's *Bygone days in Chicago*; one from Mary A. Livermore's *Story of my life*; three are reprints from newspapers; and three are papers read before the Chicago Historical Society or elsewhere. The one new contribution, the most considerable chapter in the book, is an extract from an unpublished memoir by General A. C. McClurg, entitled "American volunteer soldier."

It would be ungracious, in view of the character of the book and the auspices under which it appears, to subject it to any severe standard of criticism. That it will not add to the existing store of information concerning the civil war is obvious; it is equally obvious that a considerable distribution of it will help to disseminate and popularize such information. The reviewer, at least, hails the appearance of the book, and of the series to which it belongs, as a welcome indication of the growth of popular interest in the subject of mid-western local history.

Confederate wizards of the saddle. Being reminiscences and observations of one who rode with Morgan. By Bennett H. Young, commander in chief, United Confederate Veterans Association. (Boston: Chapple Publishing Company, 1914, 633 p. \$2.50)

Its title conveys an approximate idea of the nature of this late contribution to the literature on the American civil war. The appellation *Wizards of the saddle*, however, would put the critical reader instinctively on guard as to the impartiality of the writer, and even a casual reading would show that the book is an intensely partisan eulogy of the personal bravery and spectacular exploits of certain confederate cavalry leaders and their commands. The phrase, "Reminiscences . . . of one who rode with Morgan" is, moreover, rather misleading, for, of the twenty-four chapters, only four are devoted to Morgan. The remainder appear to contain "Observations," based on numerous historical writings, good, bad, and indifferent, of which the author appends a two-page acknowledgment.

Each chapter deals with an independent operation. The author gives the reader the general military situation, and then proceeds to describe in detail and with much coloring the movements and actions of the par-